

ORIGINAL

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS  
DALLAS DIVISION

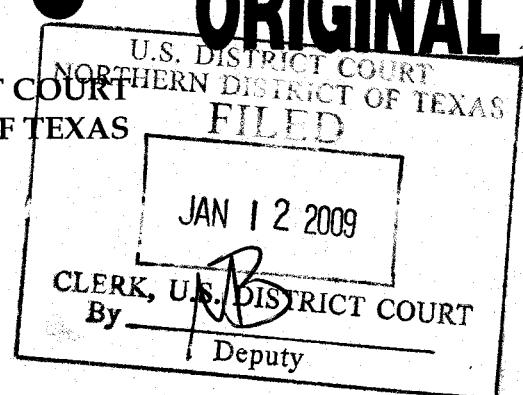
THOMAS HANNON,

*Plaintiff,*

v.

DAVID L. NEVITT,  
LAWRENCE T. CODDINGTON, JR.  
DAVID DURICA, JERRY DODD,  
RANDY SUNDQUIST,  
FRANK W. POBLENZ

*Defendants.*



CIVIL ACTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_

**3-09 CV 0066-N**

Q8000

**PLAINTIFF'S ORIGINAL COMPLAINT**

TO THE HONORABLE UNITED STATE DISTRICT JUDGE:

COMES NOW THOMAS HANNON, Plaintiff, complaining of David L. Nevitt, Lawrence T. Coddington, Jr., David Durica, Jerry Dodd, Randy Sundquist, and Frank W. Poblenz, and for cause of action will respectfully show unto the Court as follows:

**I. Parties**

1. Plaintiff is a resident of Van Zandt County, Texas.
2. Defendant David Nevitt is an individual residing in Dallas County, Texas, and service can be effected at his place of employment, Dallas Police Department, 1400 S. Lamar Street, Dallas, Texas 75215.
3. Defendant Lawrence T. Coddington, Jr. is an individual residing in Dallas County, Texas, and service can be effected at his place of employment, Dallas Police Department, 1400 S. Lamar Street, Dallas, Texas 75215.

4. Defendant David Durica is an individual residing in Dallas County, Texas, and service can be effected at his place of employment, Dallas Police Department, 1400 S. Lamar Street, Dallas, Texas 75215.

5. Defendant Randy Sundquist is an individual residing in Dallas County, Texas, and service can be effected at his place of employment, Dallas Police Department, 1400 S. Lamar Street, Dallas, Texas 75215

6. Defendant Jerry Dodd is an individual residing in Dallas County, Texas, and service can be effected at his place of employment, Dallas Police Department, 1400 S. Lamar Street, Dallas, Texas 75215.

7. Defendant Frank Poblenz is an individual residing in Dallas County, Texas, and service can be effected at his place of employment, Dallas Police Department, 1400 S. Lamar Street, Dallas, Texas 75215

## **II. Jurisdiction and Venue**

8. The Court has original jurisdiction over this action pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §1331 and §1343 since Plaintiff is suing for relief under 42 U.S.C. § 1983. Any state law claims are brought pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §1367 and are subject to this court's supplemental jurisdiction. Venue is proper in the Northern District of Texas pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §1391 because Defendants are domiciled and/or reside in the Northern District of Texas, and all or a substantial part of the cause of action accrued in the Northern District.

### III. Facts and Allegations

9. This case arises out of the unlawful arrest and subsequent indictment of Thomas Hannon. Plaintiff Hannon would show that on or about August 1, 2007 he was staying at a hotel located at 8051 LBJ Freeway, Dallas, Dallas County, Texas. At approximately 2:30 p.m., an acquaintance name Carl arrived as Hannon was leaving the premises. Carl and Hannon exited the second floor of the hotel. Carl was at all times relevant to these facts carrying a black leather bag over his right shoulder. The contents of the bag were unknown to Hannon.

10. Since Carl was heading in the opposite direction, Hannon waited for another friend to drive him to visit a friend at Presbyterian Hospital in Dallas. After realizing the friend was late, Hannon decided to walk to a Jack-in-the-Box. As he crossed Coit Road he heard a commotion behind him. He turned to see a Chevy Suburban coming at him with two police officers literally hanging out of the doors. The officers ordered Hannon to the ground and arrested him.

11. The motel video surveillance tapes showed Hannon and Carl as they walked down the hallway and exited the hotel's eastern exit. At all times relevant to these facts, Carl was carrying the black leather bag. The video shows Carl leaving the hotel and walking across the parking lot with the black leather bag as Hannon walked in the opposite direction carrying white trash bags.

12. At approximately 2:50 p.m. Defendant Sundquist was seen on the hotel video surveillance milling around the lobby of the hotel in plain clothes. The video surveillance captured several of the defendants as they went into the lobby of the hotel.

13. According to a police report generated by Defendant Dodd, at about 2:50 p.m. on August 1, 2007, Dodd and Durica were at the hotel to execute an arrest warrant for Hannon. The police go on to describe the following events: "On 8/01/07 at about 2:50 p.m. Northeast Deployment Officers J. Dodd #7577, D. Durica #5085, F. Poblenz #2953, L. Coddington #6830, D. Nevitt #4517 and Sgt. R. Sudquist #6517 were executing a felony warrant for AP Hannon at 8051 LBJ Frwy. AO Nevitt observed AP Hannon exit the rear entrance to the hotel, at which time AP was carrying a black leather bag. AP Hannon observed AOs in the parking lot at which time he immediately dropped the bag and took evasive measures by rapidly walking southbound through the parking lot. AOs Dodd and Durica took AP Hannon into custody, as he began to walk westbound on the service road to LBJ Frwy. Incident to arrest AO Dodd searched the bag in which AP Hannon was carrying and recovered a clear plastic baggie containing a white crystal like substance believed to be methamphetamine." Later in the report the following information was revealed. "AO Dodd also recovered a Colt .357 caliber revolver #6047CK from the bag in which AP Hannon was carrying."

14. Plaintiff Hannon was arrested as he was walking down LBJ Freeway. However, he repeatedly denied ever possessing a black leather bag or having any knowledge of the suspected methamphetamine or .357 Colt revolver. Hannon was taken in for questioning and he repeatedly asked what he was being charged with and continued to protest his innocence. Fed up with Hannon's refusal to cooperate, the Defendants concocted the story that was written verbatim in the police report and probable cause affidavit. Hannon was subsequently charged, arraigned, and indicted

for possession of methamphetamine and possession of a firearm by a felon in cause number F-07-55470 and F-07-55471 respectively, and ordered to jail until trial.

15. Hannon's cases were set for jury trial in February 2008. Prior to trial, Hannon's criminal defense attorney James Whalen informed the Dallas County District Attorney's office that a copy of the videotape was recently obtained directly from the hotel. Whalen showed the videotape to Assistant District Attorney Elizabeth Jackson. The tape completely contradicted the Defendants' account of events contained in the police report. Armed with this information, Jackson re-questioned her police officer witness in preparation for Hannon's trial. Defendant Nevitt, in particular, stood by the story that he did see Hannon walk out of the hotel with the black bag, and that same afternoon that the Defendants had confirmed their account by watching the video surveillance at the hotel. Defendants told Jackson that the hotel was unable to make copies of the videotape.

16. Jackson, knowing that Defendants lied to her about the existence of copies of the video, as well as the story about Hannon carrying the black bag containing the contraband and the gun, dismissed the cases against Hannon.

#### **IV. Causes of Action**

##### **THOMAS HANNON'S CLAIM FOR VIOLATION OF 42 U.S.C. § 1983 ET SEQ., FOURTH, FIFTH, EIGHTH, AND FOURTEENTH AMENDMENTS TO THE US CONSTITUTION**

17. Plaintiff re-alleges and restates all of paragraphs 10 through 17 of this Complaint and incorporates each of said paragraphs herein by reference.

18. The Defendants had actual notice of the injuries suffered by Plaintiff. Any conditions precedent have occurred, been performed, or have been waived.

19. Acting under the color of law, the Defendants have deprived Plaintiff of the rights and privileges secured to Plaintiff by the Fourth, Fifth and Fourteenth Amendments to the United States Constitution and by other laws of the United States. They have falsely and intentionally arrested Plaintiff for violations of law, falsely incarcerated Plaintiff, harassed, abused, and otherwise violated basic civil rights afforded all citizens in the United States.

20. By their actions and or inactions as described above, Defendants have violated 42 U.S.C. § 1983 and the constitutional provisions cited therein. Specifically, Defendants arrested the Plaintiff without probable cause and without even "arguable" probable cause. Defendants were aware that the black bag was not owned by or in the possession of the Plaintiff. The Defendants intentionally trumped up charges against the Plaintiff and Defendants knew, at the time, that they did not have even "arguable" probable cause to arrest the Plaintiff for the drugs and firearm found in the black bag. As a proximate result of the arrest and incarceration of the Plaintiff and of the falsified police report, Plaintiff was incarcerated for ten (10) months in county jail pending trial.

21. As a direct and proximate result of the above-described actions of the individual Defendants, Plaintiff was deprived of his rights as guaranteed by the Fourth, Fifth, and Fourteenth Amendments of the Constitution of the United States and 42 U.S.C. §1983. Specifically, Plaintiff, by virtue of the wrongful arrest and wrongful incarcerations, has suffered unreasonable seizure of his person in the form of a

prolonged confinement in the Dallas County Jail. Additionally, Plaintiff's Fourteenth and Fifth Amendment rights have been violated by the Defendants. Specifically, by trumping up false allegations and charges against Plaintiff and seeking indictments against him based on fraud, Defendants violated Plaintiff's rights to substantive and procedural due process. The indictment against the Plaintiff was procured by fraud, perjury or other corrupt means - specifically, the falsified police report.

22. As a direct and proximate result of the occurrences made the bases of this lawsuit, Plaintiff Thomas Hannon was forced to suffer incarceration in the Dallas County Jail for ten (10) months. His wrongful arrest and subsequent and unnecessary and prolonged deprivation of freedom caused him to suffer severe mental anguish in the past, and loss of earnings in the past. Plaintiff has suffered serious and substantial injuries for which he requests the award of the following categories of damages:

- a. Emotional distress, torment and mental anguish;
- b. Damage to reputation;
- c. Loss of earnings.

23. Pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 1983 and 1988, Plaintiff seeks to recover, and hereby requests the award of exemplary damages, reasonable attorney's fees and costs of court.

**STATE LAW CLAIMS**

**MALICIOUS PROSECUTION**

24. The individual Defendants maliciously prosecuted Plaintiff under State Law and caused substantial harm to Plaintiff as described above: a criminal prosecution was commenced against the Plaintiff; the Defendants, by and through their falsified police reports, initiated or procured the criminal prosecution; the criminal prosecution was terminated in Plaintiff's favor - i.e., the case against the Plaintiff was dismissed; the Plaintiff was innocent of the charges; there was an absence of probable cause for the proceedings; the Defendants acted with malice; and, the Plaintiff was damaged by incarceration of ten (10) months in the Dallas County Jail.

**FALSE ARREST AND FALSE IMPRISONMENT**

25. By and through Defendants' falsified police reports, Defendants willfully detained Plaintiff; without his consent; and, without legal authority or justification. Specifically, Plaintiff's ten (10) month confinement in the Dallas County Jail was a false imprisonment perpetrated by the Defendants' false charges.

26. In his action for false imprisonment, Plaintiff requests actual damages for humiliation, shame, fright and mental anguish, and loss of earning capacity. Additionally, Plaintiff seeks exemplary damages based on Defendant willful and malicious actions.

27. Plaintiff requests prejudgment and postjudgment interest and court costs.

**V. JURY REQUEST**

28. Plaintiff respectfully requests a jury trial.

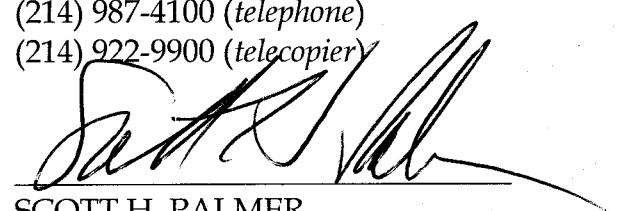
**VI. PRAYER**

29. WHEREFORE, PREMISES CONSIDERED, Plaintiff prays that judgment be rendered against Defendants. Plaintiff further prays for all other relief, both legal and equitable, to which he may show himself justly entitled.

Respectfully submitted,

**SCOTT H. PALMER, P.C.**

15455 Dallas Parkway  
Suite 540, LB 32  
Addison, Texas 75001  
(214) 987-4100 (telephone)  
(214) 922-9900 (telecopier)

  
SCOTT H. PALMER  
State Bar No. 00797196

Attorney for the Plaintiff

ORIGINAL • 809CV0066ON

## CIVIL COVER SHEET

The JS-44 civil cover sheet and the information contained herein neither replace nor supplement the filing and service of pleadings or other papers as required by law, except as provided by local rules of court. This form, approved by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required for the use of the Clerk of Court for the purpose of initiating the civil docket sheet. (SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON THE REVERSE OF THE FORM.)

## I. (a) PLAINTIFFS

MANNION, THOMAS

(b) COUNTY OF RESIDENCE OF FIRST LISTED PLAINTIFF VAN ZANDT  
(EXCEPT IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES)

## (c) ATTORNEYS (FIRM NAME, ADDRESS, AND TELEPHONE NUMBER)

SCOTT N. PALMER  
SCOTT N. PALMER, P.C.  
15455 Dallas Parkway, SUITE 540  
ADDISON, TX 75001 214.987.4100 Phone / 214.922.9900 Fax

## II. BASIS OF JURISDICTION (PLACE AN "X" IN ONE BOX ONLY)

1 U.S. Government Plaintiff  
 3 Federal Question (U.S. Government Not a Party)  
 2 U.S. Government Defendant  
 4 Diversity (Indicate Citizenship of Parties in Item III)

## III. CITIZENSHIP OF PRINCIPAL PARTIES (PLACE AN "X" IN ONE BOX FOR PLAINTIFF AND ONE BOX FOR DEFENDANT)

	PTF	DEF	PTF	DEF
Citizen of This State	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Incorporated or Principal Place of Business In This State	<input type="checkbox"/> 4 <input type="checkbox"/> 4
Citizen of Another State	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	Incorporated and Principal Place of Business In Another State	<input type="checkbox"/> 5 <input type="checkbox"/> 5
Citizen or Subject of a Foreign Country	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	Foreign Nation	<input type="checkbox"/> 6 <input type="checkbox"/> 6

## IV. NATURE OF SUIT (PLACE AN "X" IN ONE BOX ONLY)

CONTRACT	TORTS	FORFEITURE/PENALTY	BANKRUPTCY	OTHER STATUTES
<input type="checkbox"/> 110 Insurance <input type="checkbox"/> 120 Marine <input type="checkbox"/> 130 Miller Act <input type="checkbox"/> 140 Negotiable Instrument <input type="checkbox"/> 150 Recovery of Overpayment & Enforcement of Judgment <input type="checkbox"/> 151 Medicare Act <input type="checkbox"/> 152 Recovery of Defaulted Student Loans (Excl. Veterans) <input type="checkbox"/> 153 Recovery of Overpayment of Veteran's Benefits <input type="checkbox"/> 160 Stockholders' Suits <input type="checkbox"/> 190 Other Contract <input type="checkbox"/> 195 Contract Product Liability	<b>PERSONAL INJURY</b> <input type="checkbox"/> 310 Airplane <input type="checkbox"/> 315 Airplane Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 320 Assault, Libel & Slander <input type="checkbox"/> 330 Federal Employers' Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 340 Marine <input type="checkbox"/> 345 Marine Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 350 Motor Vehicle <input type="checkbox"/> 355 Motor Vehicle Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 360 Other Personal Injury	<b>PERSONAL INJURY</b> <input type="checkbox"/> 362 Personal Injury — Med. Malpractice <input type="checkbox"/> 365 Personal Injury — Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 368 Asbestos Personal Injury Product Liability	<input type="checkbox"/> 610 Agriculture <input type="checkbox"/> 620 Other Food & Drug <input type="checkbox"/> 625 Drug Related Seizure of Property 21 USC 881 <input type="checkbox"/> 630 Liquor Laws <input type="checkbox"/> 640 R.R. & Truck <input type="checkbox"/> 650 Airline Regs. <input type="checkbox"/> 660 Occupational Safety/Health <input type="checkbox"/> 690 Other	<input type="checkbox"/> 422 Appeal 28 USC 158 <input type="checkbox"/> 423 Withdrawal 28 USC 157 <b>PROPERTY RIGHTS</b> <input type="checkbox"/> 820 Copyrights <input type="checkbox"/> 830 Patent <input type="checkbox"/> 840 Trademark
<input type="checkbox"/> 210 Land Condemnation <input type="checkbox"/> 220 Foreclosure <input type="checkbox"/> 230 Rent Lease & Ejectment <input type="checkbox"/> 240 Torts to Land <input type="checkbox"/> 245 Tort Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 290 All Other Real Property	<b>REAL PROPERTY</b> <input type="checkbox"/> 441 Voting <input type="checkbox"/> 442 Employment <input type="checkbox"/> 443 Housing/ Accommodations <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 444 Welfare <input type="checkbox"/> 440 Other Civil Rights	<b>CIVIL RIGHTS</b> <b>PRISONER PETITIONS</b> <input type="checkbox"/> 510 Motions to Vacate Sentence HABEAS CORPUS: <input type="checkbox"/> 530 General <input type="checkbox"/> 535 Death Penalty <input type="checkbox"/> 540 Mandamus & Other <input type="checkbox"/> 550 Civil Rights <input type="checkbox"/> 555 Prison Condition	<b>LABOR</b> <input type="checkbox"/> 710 Fair Labor Standards Act <input type="checkbox"/> 720 Labor/Mgmt. Relations <input type="checkbox"/> 730 Labor/Mgmt. Reporting & Disclosure Act <input type="checkbox"/> 740 Railway Labor Act <input type="checkbox"/> 790 Other Labor Litigation <input type="checkbox"/> 791 Empl. Ret. Inc. Security Act	<b>SOCIAL SECURITY</b> <input type="checkbox"/> 861 HIA (1935f) <input type="checkbox"/> 862 Black Lung (923) <input type="checkbox"/> 863 DIWC/DIWW (405(g)) <input type="checkbox"/> 864 SSID Title XVI <input type="checkbox"/> 865 RSI (405(g))
			<b>FEDERAL TAX SUITS</b> <input type="checkbox"/> 870 Taxes (U.S. Plaintiff or Defendant) <input type="checkbox"/> 871 IRS — Third Party 26 USC 7603	<input type="checkbox"/> 400 State Reapportionment <input type="checkbox"/> 410 Antitrust <input type="checkbox"/> 430 Banks and Banking <input type="checkbox"/> 450 Commerce/ICC Rates/etc. <input type="checkbox"/> 460 Deportation <input type="checkbox"/> 470 Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations <input type="checkbox"/> 810 Selective Service <input type="checkbox"/> 850 Securities/Commodities/ Exchange <input type="checkbox"/> 875 Customer Challenge 12 USC 3410 <input type="checkbox"/> 891 Agricultural Acts <input type="checkbox"/> 892 Economic Stabilization Act <input type="checkbox"/> 893 Environmental Matters <input type="checkbox"/> 894 Energy Allocation Act <input type="checkbox"/> 895 Freedom of Information Act <input type="checkbox"/> 900 Appeal of Fee Determination Under Equal Access to Justice <input type="checkbox"/> 950 Constitutionality of State Statutes <input type="checkbox"/> 890 Other Statutory Actions

## V. ORIGIN

1 Original Proceeding  2 Removed from State Court  3 Remanded from Appellate Court  4 Reinstated or Reopened  5 Transferred from another district (specify)  6 Multidistrict Litigation  7 Appeal to District Judge from Magistrate Judgment

## VI. CAUSE OF ACTION (CITE THE U.S. CIVIL STATUTE UNDER WHICH YOU ARE FILING AND WRITE BRIEF STATEMENT OF CAUSE. DO NOT CITE JURISDICTIONAL STATUTES UNLESS DIVERSITY)

42 U.S.C. § 1983 UNLAWFUL ARREST AND INDICTMENT - FALSE IMPRISONMENT

## VII. REQUESTED IN COMPLAINT:

CHECK IF THIS IS A CLASS ACTION  
UNDER F.R.C.P. 23

## DEMAND \$

CHECK YES only if demanded in complaint  
JURY DEMAND:  YES  NOVIII. RELATED CASE(S) (See instructions):  
IF ANY

JUDGE

DOCKET NUMBER

DATE

1.12.2009

SIGNATURE OF ATTORNEY OF RECORD

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY